



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**BEST MAY EVER FOR NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING
GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele announced Thursday that 883,950 passengers used General Mitchell International Airport in May, a 5.61 percent increase over last May's 836,961 passengers and a record for the month. May marked the 21st straight month of record passenger numbers at Mitchell. For the first five months of the year, passenger numbers are up 3.16 percent over the same period in 2010.

"The continued strong growth in passengers and flights encourages business investment and job creation in the region, as it becomes increasingly more convenient to use Mitchell International," Abele said. "The airport's low fares and dozens of nonstop destinations, along with Milwaukee's reasonable hotel and meal costs, also make the county an attractive choice for meeting and convention planners."

Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "We are well-positioned as a gateway to Wisconsin, and an increasing number of passengers find Mitchell the most convenient gateway to northern Illinois and Chicago as well. Our low fares and reasonable parking fees are a powerful draw."

Market Data: Airport Council International in May released final passenger rankings for 2010 showing that Mitchell jumped up 11 places, making it the 34th largest U.S. airport, surpassing airports such as Cleveland; Raleigh-Durham; Nashville; Sacramento; Austin; San Jose and Pittsburgh.

U.S. Department of Transportation data for 4th Quarter 2010 (most recent) show that the average airfare out of Milwaukee dropped lower than the average at 93 other U.S. airports. Mitchell's average fare was \$98 less than O'Hare's, \$78 less than the nation's average and \$16 less than Midway's.

Mitchell ranked among the top 30 fastest-growing airports in the world in 2010, according to Airports Council International.

With 56 markets, Mitchell has moved up to 28th among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to data published by the Brookings Institute. The ranking means that more nonstop markets are served out of Milwaukee than out of other Midwestern cities, such as Kansas City; Nashville; Pittsburgh; Indianapolis and Columbus, and out of medium-sized cities elsewhere in the U.S., including Portland, OR; Austin; New Orleans; San Diego; Raleigh/Durham; Albuquerque; San Antonio and Hartford, CT.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are

used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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